

**Official Amendment**

Serial No. – 10/038,274

Docket No. – UVD 0280 PA / 40815.324

**Amendments to the Claims**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently Amended) A solid corrosion-inhibiting conversion coating formed on a substrate metal, the conversion coating comprising cobalt, wherein the cobalt is trivalent cobalt, or tetravalent cobalt, or combinations thereof, and a valence stabilizer combined to form a cobalt/valence stabilizer complex within the solid corrosion-inhibiting conversion coating, and wherein the cobalt/valence stabilizer complex has a solubility in water of between about  $5 \times 10^{-1}$  and about  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  moles per liter of cobalt at about 25°C and about 760 Torr, and wherein the valence stabilizer is selected from an organic valence stabilizer and an inorganic valence stabilizer, with the proviso that the inorganic valence stabilizer is not a vanadate or a tungstate.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The conversion coating of claim 1 wherein the solubility of the cobalt/valence stabilizer complex in water is between about  $5 \times 10^{-2}$  and about  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  moles per liter of cobalt at about 25°C and about 760 Torr.
4. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 1 wherein there is an electrostatic barrier layer around the cobalt/valence stabilizer complex in aqueous solution.
5. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 1 wherein the cobalt/valence stabilizer complex acts as an ion exchange agent towards corrosive ions.

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6. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 1 wherein the conversion coating is between about 25 and about 10,000 nanometers thick.
7. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 6 wherein the conversion coating is between about 100 and about 500 nanometers thick.
8. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 1 wherein the conversion coating has a morphology which enhances adhesion of a coating applied over the conversion coating.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) The conversion coating of claim [[9]]1 wherein the valence stabilizer is the inorganic valence stabilizer selected from molybdates, ~~tungstates, vanadates,~~ niobates, tantalates, tellurates, periodates, iodates, carbonates, antimonates, stannates, titanates, zirconates, hafnates, bismuthates, germanates, arsenates, phosphates, borates, aluminates, and silicates, and combinations thereof.
11. (Currently Amended) The conversion coating of claim 10 wherein the valence stabilizer is the inorganic valence stabilizer selected from molybdates, ~~tungstates, vanadates,~~ niobates, tantalates, tellurates, periodates, iodates, carbonates, antimonates, and stannates, and combinations thereof.
12. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 10 wherein the cobalt/valence stabilizer complex has a central cavity containing a cobalt ion and an additional ion.
13. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 12 wherein the additional ion is  $B^{+3}$ ,  $Al^{+3}$ ,  $Si^{+4}$ ,  $P^{+5}$ ,  $Ti^{+4}$ ,  $V^{+5}$ ,  $V^{+4}$ ,  $Cr^{+6}$ ,  $Cr^{+3}$ ,  $Mn^{+4}$ ,  $Mn^{+3}$ ,  $Mn^{+2}$ ,  $Fe^{+3}$ ,  $Fe^{+2}$ ,  $Co^{+2}$ ,  $Ni^{+2}$ ,  $Ni^{+3}$ ,  $Ni^{+4}$ ,  $Cu^{+2}$ ,

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 $\text{Cu}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Ga}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Ge}^{+4}$ ,  $\text{As}^{+5}$ ,  $\text{As}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Zr}^{+4}$ , or  $\text{Ce}^{+4}$ .

14. (Currently Amended) The conversion coating of claim [[9]]1 wherein the valence stabilizer is the organic valence stabilizer selected from monoamines; diamines; triamines; tetraamines; pentamines; hexamines; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one to four nitrogen atoms optionally having additional nitrogen, sulfur, or oxygen binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two sulfur atoms and having additional nitrogen binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two oxygen atoms and having additional nitrogen binding sites; (two-, three-, four-, six-, eight-, or ten-)membered nitrogen, nitrogen-sulfur, or nitrogen-oxygen macrocyclics; macrocyclic oligothioketones or dithiolenes; diazenes; thio-, amido-, or imido- derivatives of hypophosphoric, phosphoric, or diphosphoric acids and salts; azo compounds, triazenes, formazans, azines, hydrazones, or Schiff Bases containing at least two azo, imine, or azine groups; azo compounds, triazenes, formazans, azines, hydrazones, or Schiff Bases with ortho- (for aryl) or alpha- or beta- (for alkyl) substitution; oximes; amidines and imido compounds; dithio ligands; amides; amino acids; N-(thio)acyl 7-aminobenzylidenimines; (thio)hydroxamates; alpha- or ortho-aminothio(di)carboxylic acids and salts; (thio)semicarbazones; (thio)acyl hydrazones; (thio)carbazones; silylaminoalcohols; thioalkyl amines and imines; hydroxyalkyl imines; (thio)aryl amines and imines; guanylureas; guanidinoureas; 2-nitrosophenols; 2-nitrophenols; N-nitrosohydroxylamines; 1,3-monothioketones; monothiomalonamides; 2-thioacylacetamides; 2-acylthioacetamides; dithiodicarbonyl diamides; trithiodicarboxylic acids and salts; monothiocarbamates; monothioethers; dithioethers; trithioethers; tetrathioethers; pentathioethers; hexathioethers; disulfides; monophosphines; diphosphines; triphosphines; tetraphosphines; pentaphosphines; hexaphosphines; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two sulfur atoms optionally having additional sulfur, oxygen, or phosphorus binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one to three phosphorus atoms optionally having additional phosphorus, nitrogen, oxygen, or sulfur binding sites; five- or six-

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membered heterocyclic rings containing one to four nitrogen atoms and having additional phosphorus binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two oxygen atoms and having additional sulfur or phosphorus binding sites; (five-, seven-, or nine-) membered nitrogen, nitrogen-sulfur, or nitrogen-oxygen macrocyclics; (two- to ten-) membered sulfur, sulfur-oxygen, or sulfur-phosphorus macrocyclics, not including oligothioketones or dithiolenes; (two- to ten-) membered phosphorus, nitrogen-phosphorus, or oxygen-phosphorus macrocyclics; thio-, amido-, or imido- derivatives of phosphonic and diphosphonic acids and salts containing no sulfur binding sites; amido-, or imido- derivatives of hypophosphoric, phosphoric, or diphosphoric acids and salts containing no sulfur binding sites; dithioperoxydiphosphoramides; dithioperoxydiphosphoric acids and salts; monothioperoxydiphosphoramides; monothioperoxydiphosphoric acids and salts; monothiophosphoric acids; phosphoro(dithioperoxoic) acids and salts; azo compounds, triazenes, formazans, azines, or Schiff Bases; silylamines; silazanes; guanidines and diguanidines; pyridinaldimines; hydrazones; hydramides; nitriles; thioureas and thioamides; ureas and biurets; monothio ligands; diketone ligands; dithioacyl disulfides; tetrathioperoxydicarbonic diamides; (hexa-, penta-, or tetra-) thioperoxydicarbonic acids and salts; 1,2-dithiolates; rhodanines; dithiocarbimates; (thio)xanthates; S-(alkyl- or aryl-thio)thiocarboxylic acids and salts; phosphinodithioformates; (thio)borates and (thio)boronates; (thio)arsonic acids and salts; (thio)antimonic acids and salts; phosphine and arsine sulfides or oxides; beta-hydroxyketones and -aldehydes; squaric acids and salts; carbamates and carbimates; carbazates; imidosulfurous diamides; sulfurdiimines; thiocarbonyl and mercapto oximes; 2-nitrothiophenols; 2-nitrilo(thio)phenols; acylcyanamides; imidates; 2-amidinoacetates; beta-ketoamines; 3-aminoacrylamides and 3,3-diaminoacrylamides; 3-aminoacrylic acids and salts and 3-hydroxy-3-aminoacrylic acids and salts; 2-nitroanilines; amine and diazine N-oxides; hydrazides and semicarbazides; (amino- or imino-)aryl phosphines; (thio- or hydroxy-)aryl phosphines; arsines; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one arsenic atom optionally having additional arsenic binding sites; (two- to six-) membered arsenic macrocyclics; selenoethers; five-

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or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two selenium atoms optionally having additional selenium binding sites; (two- to six-)membered selenium macrocyclics; 1,3-diselenoketones; 1,1-diselenolates; diselenocarbamates; selenophosphoric acids and salts; selenocarbonates; cyanide, isocyanide, and cyanamide ligands; nitrosyl and nitrite ligands; azide ligands; thiolates and selenolates; (thio)cyanate ligands; diene or bicyclic or tricyclic hydrocarbon ligands; and carbonyl, halogen, or hydroxo ligands; and combinations thereof.

15. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is selected from monoamines; diamines; triamines; tetraamines; pentamines; hexamines; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one to four nitrogen atoms optionally having additional nitrogen, sulfur, or oxygen binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two sulfur atoms and having additional nitrogen binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two oxygen atoms and having additional nitrogen binding sites; (two-, three-, four-, six-, eight-, or ten-)membered nitrogen, nitrogen-sulfur, or nitrogen-oxygen macrocyclics; macrocyclic oligothioketones or dithiolenes; diazenes; thio-, amido-, or imido- derivatives of hypophosphoric, phosphoric, or diphosphoric acids and salts; azo compounds, triazenes, formazans, azines, hydrazones, or Schiff Bases containing at least two azo, imine, or azine groups; azo compounds, triazenes, formazans, azines, hydrazones, or Schiff Bases with ortho- (for aryl) or alpha- or beta- (for alkyl) substituted azo compounds, triazenes, formazans, azines, hydrazones, or Schiff Bases; oximes; amidines and imido compounds; dithio ligands; amides; amino acids; N-(thio)acyl 7-aminobenzylidenimines; (thio)hydroxamates; alpha- or ortho-aminothio(di)carboxylic acids and salts; (thio)semicarbazones; (thio)acyl hydrazones; (thio)carbazones; silylaminoalcohols; thioalkyl amines and imines; hydroxyalkyl imines; (thio)aryl amines and imines; guanylureas; guanidinoureas; 2-nitrosophenols; 2-nitrophenols; N-nitrosohydroxylamines; 1,3-monothioketones; monothiomalonamides; 2-thioacylacetamides; 2-acylthioacetamides; dithiodicarboxylic diamides; trithiodicarboxylic acids and salts; and monothiocarbamates; and combinations thereof.

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16. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is the diazene selected from diazeneformimidamides; diazeneformamides; diazeneformthioamides; diazeneacetimidamides; diazeneacetothioamides; diazeneformimidic acids and salts; diazeneacetimidic acids and salts; diazenecarbothioic acids and salts; diazenecarbodithioic acids and salts; diazeneformimidothioic acids and salts; diazeneformaldehydes; diazeneformthioaldehydes; diazeneacetaldehydes; diazeneacetothioaldehydes; diazenediformamides; diazenediformthioamides; diazenediacetamides; diazenediacetothioamides; diazeneacetimidothioic acids and salts; imido- diazenes; diazenediformimidamides; diazenediacetimidamides; diazenediformimidic acids and salts; diazenediacetimidic acids and salts; diazenediformimidothioic acids and salts; diazenediacetimidothioic acids and salts; diazenedicarbothioic acids; diazenedicarbodithioic acids; diazeneformic acids; diazenediformic acids; diazeneacetic acids; diazenediacetic acids; diazenediformaldehydes; diazenediformthioaldehydes; diazenediacetaldehydes; diazenediacetothioaldehydes; and diimido- diazenes; and combinations thereof.

17. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is the thio-, amido-, or imido- derivative of hypophosphoric, phosphoric, or diphosphoric acids and salts selected from phosphoramidimidic triamides; phosphoramidimidic acids and salts; phosphorodiamidimidic acids and salts; phosphorodiamidimidothioic acids and salts; phosphoramidimidothioic acids and salts; phosphorodiamidimidodithioic acids and salts; phosphoramidimidodithioic acids and salts; (di- or mono-)thiohypophosphoric acids and salts; (di- or mono-)thiohypophosphoramides; phosphoramidic acids and salts; phosphorimidic acids and salts; (di- or mono-)thioimidodiphosphoric acids and salts; (di- or mono-)thiohydrazidodiphosphoric acids and salts; (di- or mono-)thioimidodiphosphoramides; (di- or mono-)thiohydrazidodiphosphoramides; phosphoric triamides; (di- or mono-)thiodiphosphoramides; (di- or mono-)thiodiphosphoric acids and salts; (tetra-, tri-, di-)

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thiophosphoric acids and salts; phosphoro(dithioperoxo)(mono-, di-, or tri-)thioic acids and salts; phosphorimido(mono-, di-, or tri-)thioic acids and salts; phosphorothioic triamides; phosphoramido(mono-, di- or tri-)thioic acids and salts; and phosphorodiamido(mono-, di- or tri-)thioic acids and salts; and combinations thereof.

18. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is a substituent for the ortho- (for aryl) or alpha- or beta- (for alkyl) substituted azo compounds, triazenes, formazans, azines, hydrazones, or Schiff Bases selected from amino; imino; oximo; diazeno; hydrazido; thiol; mercapto; thiocarbonyl; hydroxy; carbox; and carbonyl substituents; and combinations thereof.

19. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is the oxime selected from monooximes; dioximes; carbonyl oximes; imine oximes; hydroxy oximes; amino oximes; amido oximes; hydrazone oximes; and azo oximes; and combinations thereof.

20. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is the amidine and imido compound selected from amidines; diamidines; biguanides; biguanidines; diamidinomethanes; imido-ylguanidines; amidinoguanidines; diformamidine oxides, sulfides, and disulfides; imidodicarbonimidic acids and salts; diimidodicarbonimidic acids and salts; thioimidodicarbonimidic acids and salts; thiodiimidodicarbonimidic acids and salts; diimidoylimines; diimidoylhydrazides; imidosulfamides; diimidosulfamides; O-amidinocarbamates; O- or S-amidino(mono-, di-, or peroxy-)thiocarbamates; N-hydroxy(or N,N'-dihydroxy)amidines; and diimidosulfuric acids and salts; and combinations thereof.

21. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is

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the dithio ligand selected from dithioimidodialdehydes; dithiohydrazidodialdehydes; dithioimidodicarbonic acids and salts; dithiohydrazidodicarbonic acids and salts; 1,3-dithioketones; 1,2-dithioketones; dithiomalonamides; 2-thioacylthioacetamides; dithioacyl sulfides; trithiodicarbonic diamides; (penta-, tetra-, tri-)thiodicarbonic acids and salts; beta-mercaptothioketones and –aldehydes; N-(aminomethylthiol)thioureas; dithiooxamides; 1,1-dithiolates; (di- or per-)thiomonocarboxylic acids and salts; (tetra- or per-)thiodicarboxylic acids and salts; (di-, tri-, or per-)thiocarbonates; dithiocarbamates (including N-hydroxydithiocarbamates and N-mercaptodithiocarbamates); and dithiocarbazates; and combinations thereof.

22. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is the amide selected from monoamides; lactams; amidinoamides; guanidinoamides; imidoamides; polyamides; and polylactams; and combinations thereof.

23. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is the thio-, amido-, or imido-derivative of phosphonic and diphosphonic acids and salts selected from phosphonitrile amides; phosphonimidic diamides; phosphonamidimidic acids and salts; phosphonamidimidothioic acids and salts; dithioimidodiphosphonic acids and salts; dithiohydrazidodiphosphonic acids and salts; dithioimidodiphosphonamides; dithiohydrazidodiphosphonamides; dithiodiphosphonamides; dithiodiphosphonic acids and salts; dithiooxydiphosphonamides; dithiooxydiphosphonic acids and salts; (di- and tri-) thiophosphonic acids and salts; phosphono(dithiooxy)thioic acids and salts; phosphono(dithiooxy)dithioic acids and salts; phosphonimidothioic acids and salts; phosphonimidodithioic acids and salts; phosphonothioic acids and salts; phosphonanidothioic acids and salts; phosphonamidimidodithioic acids and salts; monothioimidodiphosphonic acids and salts; monothiohydrazidodiphosphonic acids and salts; monothioimidodiphosphonamides; monothiohydrazidodiphosphonamides; monothiodiphosphonamides; monothiodiphosphonic acids



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and salts; monothioperoxydiphosphonamides; monothioperoxydiphosphonic acids and salts; monothiophosphonic acids and salts; and phosphono(dithioperoxoic) acids and salts; and combinations thereof.

24. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is the amido-, or imido- derivative of hypophosphoric, phosphoric, or diphosphoric acids and salts containing no sulfur binding sites selected from hypophosphoric acids and salts; hypophosphoramides; imidodiphosphoric acids and salts; hydrazidodiphosphoric acids and salts; imidodiphosphoramides; hydrazidodiphosphoramides; and diphosphoramides; and combinations thereof.

25. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is the amido-, or imido- derivative of phosphonic or diphosphonic acids and salts containing no sulfur binding sites selected from imidodiphosphonic acids and salts; hydrazidodiphosphonic acids and salts; imidodiphosphonamides; hydrazidodiphosphonamides; diphosphonamides; phosphonimidic acids and salts; phosphonamidic acids and salts; and phosphonic diamides; and combinations thereof.

26. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is the thiourea and thioamide selected from thioureas; thiocarboxamides; thioacylthioureas, acylthioureas, and thioacylureas; thioaroylthioureas, aroylthioureas, and thioaroylureas; thioimides; thioguanylureas; guanidinothioureas; amidinothioamides; guanidinothioamides; imidothioamides; 3-aminothioacrylamides; thiohydrazides; thiosemicarbazides; (mono- and di-)thiobiurets; (mono- and di-)thioisobiurets; (mono- and di-)thiobiureas; N-(aminomethylol) thioureas; N-(aminomethylthiol)ureas; and beta-mercaptocarboxamides; and combinations thereof.

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27. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is the urea and biuret selected from ureas; pseudoureas; biurets; isobiurets; biureas; acylureas; aroylureas; and N-(aminomethylol)ureas; and combinations thereof.

28. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is the monothio ligand selected from beta-aminothiones; 3-aminothioacrylic acids and salts; 3-mercapto-3-aminothioacrylic acids and salts; N-thioacyl benzylidenimines; thioimidodialdehydes; thiohydrazidodialdehydes; thioimidodicarbonic acids and salts; thiohydrazidodicarbonic acids and salts; 1,2-monothioketones; trithioperoxydicarbonic diamides; dithioperoxydicarbonic diamides; dithiodicarbonic acids and salts; trithioperoxydicarbonic acids and salts; beta-hydroxythioketones; beta-hydroxythioaldehydes; beta-mercaptoketones; beta-mercaptoaldehydes; monothiooxamides; beta-mercaptopcarboxylic acids and salts; beta-mercaptothiocarboxylic acids and salts; beta-hydroxythiocarboxylic acids and salts; S-alkylthiocarboxylic acids and salts; S-arylthiocarboxylic acids and salts; S-alkyldisulfidocarboxylic acids and salts; S-aryldisulfidocarboxylic acids and salts; monothiomonocarboxylic acids and salts; dithiodicarboxylic acids and salts; monothiocarbonates; monothiocarbazates; monothiocarbimates; mercaptoalcohols; and silylmercaptoalcohols; and combinations thereof.

29. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is the diketone ligand selected from imidodialdehydes; hydrazidodialdehydes; imidodicarbonic acids and salts; hydrazidodicarbonic acids and salts; imidodisulfamic acids and salts; imidodisulfuric acids and salts; 1,3-diketones; 1,2-diketones; malonamides; 2-acetylacetamides; monothiodicarbonic diamides; monothiodicarbonic acids and salts; dithioperoxydicarbonic acids and salts; trithionic acids and salts; oxamides; and dicarboxylic acids; and combinations thereof.

30. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is

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the S-(alkyl- or aryl-thio)thiocarboxylic acid and salt selected from S-(alkylthio)thiocarboxylic acids and salts; S-(arylthio)thiocarboxylic acids and salts; S,S-thiobisthiocarboxylic acids and salts; S-(alkyldisulfido)thiocarboxylic acids and salts; S-(aryldisulfido)thiocarboxylic acids and salts; and S,S'-disulfidobisthiocarboxylic acids and salts; and combinations thereof.

31. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the organic valence stabilizer is the phosphine and arsine sulfide or oxide selected from phosphine P-sulfides; aminophosphine sulfides; arsine As-sulfides; aminoarsine sulfides; phosphine P-oxides; aminophosphine oxides; arsine As-oxides; and aminoarsine oxides; and combinations thereof.

32. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein the solubility in water of the cobalt/valence stabilizer complex is adjusted by the addition of a substituent group on the organic valence stabilizer.

33. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 32 wherein the solubility in water is increased by the addition of the substituent group selected from sulfonate groups ( $-\text{SO}_3^-$ ), carboxyl groups ( $-\text{CO}_2^-$ ), hydroxyl groups ( $-\text{OH}$ ), ester groups ( $-\text{CO}_2-$ ), carbonyl groups ( $=\text{C}=\text{O}$ ), amine groups ( $-\text{NH}_2$ ), nitrosamine groups ( $=\text{N}-\text{N}=\text{O}$ ), carbonylnitrene groups ( $-\text{CO}-\text{N}$ ), sulfoxide groups ( $=\text{S}=\text{O}$ ), sulfone groups ( $=\text{S}(=\text{O})_2$ ), sulfinyl groups ( $-\text{N}=\text{S}=\text{O}$ ), sulfodiimines ( $=\text{S}(=\text{NH})_2$ ), sulfonyl halide groups ( $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{X}$ ), sulfonamide groups ( $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{NH}_2$ ), monohalosulfonamide groups ( $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{NHX}$ ), dihalosulfonamide groups ( $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{MX}_2$ ), halosulfonate groups ( $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{OX}$ ), halosulfonate amide groups ( $=\text{N}-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{X}$ ), aminosulfonate groups ( $=\text{N}-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{OH}$ ), iminosulfonate groups ( $-\text{N}[\text{SO}_3^-]_{1-2}$ ), phosphonate groups ( $-\text{PO}_3^{2-}$ ), phosphonamide groups ( $-\text{PO}_2\text{NH}_2$ ), phosphondiamide groups ( $-\text{PO}[\text{NH}_2]_2$ ), aminophosphonate groups ( $=\text{N}-\text{PO}_3^{2-}$ ), and iminophosphonate groups ( $-\text{N}[\text{PO}_3^{2-}]_{1-2}$ ), and combinations thereof.

34. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 32 wherein the solubility in water is

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decreased by the addition of the substituent group selected from nitro groups ( $-\text{NO}_2$ ), perfluoroalkyl groups ( $-\text{C}_x\text{F}_{2x+1}$ ), perchloroalkyl groups ( $-\text{C}_x\text{Cl}_{2x+1}$ ), nitramine groups ( $=\text{N}-\text{NO}_2$ ), thioketone groups ( $=\text{C}=\text{S}$ ), sulfenyl halide groups ( $-\text{S}-\text{X}$ ), and sulfur dihaloimide groups ( $-\text{N}=\text{SX}_2$ ), and combinations thereof.

35. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 14 wherein an electrostatic barrier layer of the cobalt/valence stabilizer complex is adjusted by the addition of a substituent group on the organic valence stabilizer.

36. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 35 wherein the electrostatic barrier layer is increased by the addition of the substituent group selected from ketones ( $=\text{C}=\text{O}$ ), thioketones ( $=\text{C}=\text{S}$ ), amides ( $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NR}_2$ ), thioamides ( $-\text{C}(=\text{S})-\text{NR}_2$ ), nitriles or cyano groups, ( $-\text{CN}$ ), isocyanides ( $-\text{NC}$ ), nitroso groups ( $-\text{N}=\text{O}$ ), thionitroso groups ( $-\text{N}=\text{S}$ ), nitro groups ( $-\text{NO}_2$ ), azido groups ( $-\text{N}_3$ ), cyanamide or cyanonitrene groups ( $=\text{N}-\text{CN}$ ), cyanate groups ( $-\text{O}-\text{CN}$ ), isocyanate groups ( $-\text{N}=\text{C}=\text{O}$ ), thiocyanate groups ( $-\text{S}-\text{CN}$ ), isothiocyanate groups ( $-\text{N}=\text{C}=\text{S}$ ), nitrosamine groups ( $=\text{N}-\text{N}=\text{O}$ ), thionitrosamine groups ( $=\text{N}-\text{N}=\text{S}$ ), nitramine groups ( $=\text{N}-\text{NO}_2$ ), thionitramine groups ( $=\text{N}-\text{NS}_2$ ), carbonylnitrene groups ( $-\text{CO}-\text{N}$ ), thiocarbonylnitrene groups ( $-\text{CS}-\text{N}$ ), sulfenyl halides ( $-\text{S}-\text{X}$ ), sulfoxides ( $=\text{S}=\text{O}$ ), sulfones ( $=\text{S}(=\text{O})_2$ ), sulfinyl groups ( $-\text{N}=\text{S}=\text{O}$ ), thiosulfinyl groups ( $-\text{N}=\text{S}=\text{S}$ ), sulfenyl thiocyanato groups ( $-\text{S}-\text{S}-\text{CN}$ ), sulfenyl cyanato groups ( $-\text{S}-\text{O}-\text{CN}$ ), sulfodiimine groups ( $=\text{S}(=\text{NH})_2$ ), sulfur dihaloimido groups ( $-\text{N}=\text{SX}_2$ ), sulfur oxide dihaloimido groups ( $-\text{N}=\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{X}_2$ ), aminosulfur oxide trihalide groups ( $=\text{N}-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{X}_3$ ), sulfonyl azide groups ( $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{N}_3$ ), sulfonyl thiocyanate groups ( $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{SCN}$ ), sulfonyl cyanate groups ( $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{OCN}$ ), sulfonyl cyanide groups ( $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{CN}$ ), halosulfonate groups ( $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{OX}$ ), phosphonyl thiocyanate groups ( $-\text{P}(=\text{O})\text{OHSCN}$ ), phosphonyl cyanate groups ( $-\text{P}(=\text{O})\text{OHOCN}$ ), and phosphonyl cyanide groups ( $-\text{P}(=\text{O})\text{OHCN}$ ), and combinations thereof.

37. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 1 further comprising a solubility control

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agent.

38. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 37 wherein the solubility control agent is selected from a cationic solubility control agent and an anionic solubility control agent.

39. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 38 wherein the solubility control agent is the cationic solubility control agent selected from  $H^+$ ,  $Li^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Rb^+$ ,  $Cs^+$ ,  $NH_4^+$ ,  $Mg^{+2}$ ,  $Ca^{+2}$ ,  $Sr^{+2}$ ,  $Be^{+2}$ ,  $Ba^{+2}$ ,  $Y^{+3}$ ,  $La^{+3}$ ,  $Ce^{+3}$ ,  $Ce^{+4}$ ,  $Nd^{+3}$ ,  $Pr^{+3}$ ,  $Sc^{+3}$ ,  $Sm^{+3}$ ,  $Eu^{+3}$ ,  $Eu^{+2}$ ,  $Gd^{+3}$ ,  $Tb^{+3}$ ,  $Dy^{+3}$ ,  $Ho^{+3}$ ,  $Er^{+3}$ ,  $Tm^{+3}$ ,  $Yb^{+3}$ ,  $Lu^{+3}$ ,  $Ti^{+4}$ ,  $Zr^{+4}$ ,  $Ti^{+3}$ ,  $Hf^{+4}$ ,  $Nb^{+5}$ ,  $Ta^{+5}$ ,  $Nb^{+4}$ ,  $Ta^{+4}$ ,  $V^{+5}$ ,  $V^{+4}$ ,  $V^{+3}$ ,  $Mo^{+6}$ ,  $W^{+6}$ ,  $Mo^{+5}$ ,  $W^{+5}$ ,  $Mo^{+4}$ ,  $W^{+4}$ ,  $Cr^{+3}$ ,  $Mn^{+2}$ ,  $Mn^{+3}$ ,  $Mn^{+4}$ ,  $Fe^{+2}$ ,  $Fe^{+3}$ ,  $Co^{+2}$ ,  $Co^{+3}$ ,  $Ni^{+2}$ ,  $Ni^{+3}$ ,  $Ni^{+4}$ ,  $Ru^{+2}$ ,  $Ru^{+3}$ ,  $Ru^{+4}$ ,  $Rh^{+3}$ ,  $Ir^{+3}$ ,  $Rh^{+2}$ ,  $Ir^{+2}$ ,  $Pd^{+4}$ ,  $Pt^{+4}$ ,  $Pd^{+2}$ ,  $Pt^{+2}$ ,  $Os^{+4}$ ,  $Cu^+$ ,  $Cu^{+2}$ ,  $Cu^{+3}$ ,  $Ag^+$ ,  $Ag^{+2}$ ,  $Ag^{+3}$ ,  $Au^+$ ,  $Au^{+2}$ ,  $Au^{+3}$ ,  $Zn^{+2}$ ,  $Cd^{+2}$ ,  $Hg^+$ ,  $Hg^{+2}$ ,  $Al^{+3}$ ,  $Ga^{+3}$ ,  $Ga^+$ ,  $In^{+3}$ ,  $In^+$ ,  $Tl^{+3}$ ,  $Tl^+$ ,  $Ge^{+4}$ ,  $Ge^{+2}$ ,  $Sn^{+4}$ ,  $Sn^{+2}$ ,  $Pb^{+4}$ ,  $Pb^{+2}$ ,  $Sb^{+3}$ ,  $Sb^{+5}$ ,  $As^{+3}$ ,  $As^{+5}$ ,  $Bi^{+3}$ ,  $Bi^{+5}$ , organic compounds containing at least one  $N^+$  site, organic compounds containing at least one phosphonium site, organic compounds containing at least one arsonium site, organic compounds containing at least one stibonium site, organic compounds containing at least one oxonium site, organic compounds containing at least one sulfonium site, organic compounds containing at least one selenonium site, organic compounds containing at least one iodonium site, and quaternary ammonium compounds having a formula  $NR_4^+$ , where R is an alkyl, aromatic, or acyclic organic constituent, and combinations thereof.

40. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 39 wherein the cationic solubility control agent is selected from  $H^+$ ,  $Li^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Rb^+$ ,  $Cs^+$ ,  $NH_4^+$ ,  $Mg^{+2}$ ,  $Ca^{+2}$ ,  $Sr^{+2}$ ,  $Y^{+3}$ ,  $La^{+3}$ ,  $Ce^{+3}$ ,  $Ce^{+4}$ ,  $Nd^{+3}$ ,  $Pr^{+3}$ ,  $Sc^{+3}$ ,  $Sm^{+3}$ ,  $Eu^{+3}$ ,  $Eu^{+2}$ ,  $Gd^{+3}$ ,  $Tb^{+3}$ ,  $Dy^{+3}$ ,  $Ho^{+3}$ ,  $Er^{+3}$ ,  $Tm^{+3}$ ,  $Yb^{+3}$ ,  $Lu^{+3}$ ,  $Ti^{+4}$ ,  $Zr^{+4}$ ,  $Ti^{+3}$ ,  $Hf^{+4}$ ,  $Nb^{+5}$ ,  $Ta^{+5}$ ,  $Nb^{+4}$ ,  $Ta^{+4}$ ,  $Mo^{+6}$ ,  $W^{+6}$ ,  $Mo^{+5}$ ,  $W^{+5}$ ,  $Mo^{+4}$ ,  $W^{+4}$ ,  $Mn^{+2}$ ,  $Mn^{+3}$ ,  $Mn^{+4}$ ,  $Fe^{+2}$ ,  $Fe^{+3}$ ,  $Co^{+2}$ ,  $Co^{+3}$ ,  $Ru^{+2}$ ,  $Ru^{+3}$ ,  $Ru^{+4}$ ,  $Rh^{+3}$ ,  $Ir^{+3}$ ,  $Rh^{+2}$ ,  $Ir^{+2}$ ,  $Pd^{+4}$ ,  $Pt^{+4}$ ,  $Pd^{+2}$ ,  $Pt^{+2}$ ,  $Cu^+$ ,  $Cu^{+2}$ ,  $Cu^{+3}$ ,  $Ag^+$ ,  $Ag^{+2}$ ,  $Ag^{+3}$ ,  $Au^+$ ,  $Au^{+2}$ ,  $Au^{+3}$ ,  $Zn^{+2}$ ,  $Al^{+3}$ ,  $Ga^{+3}$ ,  $Ga^+$ ,  $In^{+3}$ ,  $In^+$ ,  $Ge^{+4}$ ,  $Ge^{+2}$ ,  $Sn^{+4}$ ,  $Sn^{+2}$ ,  $Sb^{+3}$ ,

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Sb<sup>+5</sup>, Bi<sup>+3</sup>, Bi<sup>+5</sup>, organic compounds containing at least one N<sup>+</sup> site, organic compounds containing at least one phosphonium site, organic compounds containing at least one stibonium site, organic compounds containing at least one oxonium site, organic compounds containing at least one sulfonium site, organic compounds containing at least one iodonium site, and quaternary ammonium compounds having a formula NR<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, where R is an alkyl, aromatic, or acyclic organic constituent, and combinations thereof.

41. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 38 wherein the solubility control agent is the anionic solubility control agent selected from fluorotitanates; chlorotitanates; fluorozirconates; chlorozirconates; fluoroniobates; chloroniobates; fluorotantalates; chlorotantalates; molybdates; tungstates; permanganates; fluoromanganates; chloromanganates; fluoroferrates; chloroferrates; fluorocobaltates; chlorocobaltates; fluorozincates; chlorozincates; borates; fluoroborates; fluoroaluminates; chloroaluminates; carbonates; silicates; fluorosilicates; fluorostannates; nitrates; nitrites; azides; cyanamides; phosphates; phosphites; phosphonates; phosphinites; thiophosphates; thiophosphites; thiophosphonates; thiophosphinites; fluorophosphates; fluoroantimonates; chloroantimonates; sulfates; sulfites; sulfonates; thiosulfates; dithionites; dithionates; fluorosulfates; tellurates; fluorides; chlorides; chlorates; perchlorates; bromides; bromates; iodides; iodates; periodates; heteropolyanions; ferricyanides; ferrocyanides; cyanocobaltates; cyanocuprates; cyanomanganates; cyanates; cyanatoferrates; cyanatocobaltates; cyanatocuprates; cyanatomanganates; thiocyanates; thiocyanatoferrates; thiocyanatocobaltates; thiocyanatocuprates; thiocyanatomanganates; cyanamides; cyanamidoferrates; cyanamidocobaltates; cyanamidocuprates; cyanamidomanganates; nitritoferrates; nitritocobaltates; azides; (thio)carboxylates; di(thio)carboxylates; tri(thio)carboxylates; tetra(thio)carboxylates; (thio)phenolates; di(thio)phenolates; tri(thio)phenolates; tetra(thio)phenolates; (thio)phosphonates; di(thio)phosphonates; tri(thio)phosphonates; (thio)phosphonamides; di(thio)phosphonamides; tri(thio)phosphonamides; amino(thio)phosphonates; diamino(thio)phosphonates; triamino(thio)phosphonates;

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imino(thio)phosphonates; diimino(thio)phosphonates; (thio)sulfonates; di(thio)sulfonates; tri(thio)sulfonates; (thio)sulfonamides; di(thio)sulfonamides; tri(thio)sulfonamides; amino(thio)sulfonates; diamino(thio)sulfonates; triamino(thio)sulfonates; imino(thio)sulfonates; diimino(thio)sulfonates; (thio)borates; di(thio)borates; (thio)boronates; organic silicates; stibonates; cyanides; cyanochromates; cyanonickelates; cyanatochromates; cyanatonickelates; thiocyanatochromates; thiocyanatonickelates; cyanamidochromates; cyanamidonickelates; nitritonickelates; arsonates; diarsonates; triarsonates; organic selenates; diselenates; triselenates; arsenates; arsenites; fluoroarsenates; chloroarsenates; selenates; selenites; fluorothallates; chlorothallates; iodoamalgam anions; chloromercurates; bromomercurates; osmates; fluoronickelates; chromates; Reinecke's salt; and vanadates; and combinations thereof.

42. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 41 wherein the anionic solubility control agent is selected from fluorotitanates; chlorotitanates; fluorozirconates; chlorozirconates; fluoroniobates; chloroniobates; fluorotantalates; chlorotantalates; molybdates; tungstates; permanganates; fluoromanganates; chloromanganates; fluoroferrates; chloroferrates; fluorocobaltates; chlorocobaltates; fluorozincates; chlorozincates; borates; fluoroborates; fluoroaluminates; chloroaluminates; carbonates; silicates; fluorosilicates; fluorostannates; nitrates; nitrites; azides; cyanamides; phosphates; phosphites; phosphonates; phosphinites; thiophosphates; thiophosphites; thiophosphonates; thiophosphinites; fluorophosphates; fluoroantimonates; chloroantimonates; sulfates; sulfites; sulfonates; thiosulfates; dithionites; dithionates; fluorosulfates; tellurates; fluorides; chlorides; chlorates; perchlorates; bromides; bromates; iodides; iodates; periodates; heteropolyanions; ferricyanides; ferrocyanides; cyanocobaltates; cyanocuprates; cyanomanganates; cyanates; cyanatoferrates; cyanatocobaltates; cyanatocuprates; cyanatomanganates; thiocyanates; thiocyanatoferrates; thiocyanatocobaltates; thiocyanatocuprates; thiocyanatomanganates; cyanamides; cyanamidoferrates; cyanamidocobaltates; cyanamidocuprates; cyanamidomanganates; nitritoferrates; nitritocobaltates; azides; (thio)carboxylates; di(thio)carboxylates; tri(thio)carboxylates;

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tetra(thio)carboxylates; (thio)phenolates; di(thio)phenolates; tri(thio)phenolates; tetra(thio)phenolates; (thio)phosphonates; di(thio)phosphonates; tri(thio)phosphonates; (thio)phosphonamides; di(thio)phosphonamides; tri(thio)phosphonamides; amino(thio)phosphonates; diamino(thio)phosphonates; triamino(thio)phosphonates; imino(thio)phosphonates; diimino(thio)phosphonates; (thio)sulfonates; di(thio)sulfonates; tri(thio)sulfonates; (thio)sulfonamides; di(thio)sulfonamides; tri(thio)sulfonamides; amino(thio)sulfonates; diamino(thio)sulfonates; triamino(thio)sulfonates; imino(thio)sulfonates; diimino(thio)sulfonates; (thio)borates; di(thio)borates; (thio)boronates; organic silicates; and stibonates; and combinations thereof.

43. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 1 wherein the conversion coating is colored.
44. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 43 further comprising an agent which improves color-fastness of the conversion coating.
45. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 44 wherein the agent which improves color-fastness is selected from an active UV blocker, a passive UV blocker, and a brightener.
46. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 45 wherein the agent which improves color-fastness is the active UV blocker selected from carbon black, graphite, and phthalocyanines.
47. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 45 wherein the agent which improves color-fastness is the passive UV blocker selected from titanium oxide, tin oxide, lead oxide, silicon oxide, silicates, and aluminosilicates, and combinations thereof.
48. (Original) The conversion coating of claim 45 wherein the agent which improves color-



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fastness is the brightener selected from sulfonic acids, sulfonates, sulfonamides, sulfonimides, sulfinic acids, sulfones, cyanides, and nonionic surfactants.

Claims 49 - 122 (Canceled).

123. (Previously Presented) A corrosion-inhibiting conversion coating bath consisting essentially of a solvent, a precursor cobalt source, and a valence stabilizer combined to form a cobalt/valence stabilizer complex, optionally an oxidizer, optionally preparative agent, and optionally a solubility control agent, and wherein the valence stabilizer is selected from an organic valence stabilizer and an inorganic valence stabilizer, with the proviso that the inorganic valence stabilizer is not a vanadate or a tungstate.

124. (Original) The conversion coating bath of claim 123 wherein the solvent is water.

125. (Canceled)

126. (Previously Presented) The conversion coating bath of claim 123 wherein the oxidizer is selected from a dissolved solid, a liquid, and a gas.

127. (Original) The conversion coating bath of claim 126 wherein the oxidizer is selected from peroxides, superoxides, persulfates, perborates, permittates, perphosphates, percarbonates, persilicates, peraluminates, pertitanates, perzirconates, permolybdates, pertungstates, pervanadates, organic peroxyacid derivatives, ozone, hypochlorites, chlorates, perchlorates, nitrates, nitrites, vanadates, iodates, hypobromites, chlorites, bromates, permanganates, periodates, dissolved oxygen, dissolved chlorine, and dissolved fluorine, and combinations thereof.

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128. (Original) The conversion coating bath of claim 123 wherein the cobalt source is selected from cobalt contained within a treated substrate, cobalt nitrate, cobalt sulfate, cobalt perchlorate, cobalt chloride, cobalt fluoride, cobalt bromide, cobalt iodide, cobalt bromate, cobalt chlorate, cobalt fluosilicate, cobalt fluotitanate, cobalt fluozirconate, cobalt fluoborate, cobalt fluoaluminate, cobalt formate, cobalt acetate, cobalt propionate, cobalt butyrate, cobalt benzoate, cobalt glycolate, cobalt lactate, cobalt tartronate, cobalt malate, cobalt tartrate, cobalt citrate, cobalt benzenesulfonate, cobalt thiocyanate, cobalt acetylacetonate, ammonium cobalt sulfate, ammonium cobalt nitrate, ammonium cobalt chloride, ammonium cobalt bromide, hexaamminecobalt chloride, hexaamminecobalt bromide, hexaamminecobalt nitrate, pentaamminecobalt chloride, pentaamminecobalt bromide, pentaamminecobalt nitrate, lithium cobaltinitrite, sodium cobaltinitrite, tris(ethylenediamine)cobalt chloride, tris(ethylenediamine)cobalt nitrate, bipyridine complexes of trivalent cobalt, phenanthroline complexes of trivalent cobalt, and cobaltcarbonates, and combinations thereof.

129. (Canceled)

130. (Previously Presented) The conversion coating bath of claim 123 wherein the preparative agent is selected from fluorides, chlorides, bromides, and hydroxides, and combinations thereof.

131. (Original) The conversion coating bath of claim 130 wherein the preparative agent is a fluoride.

132. (Original) The conversion coating bath of claim 131 wherein the fluoride is selected from fluorozeonates, fluorotitanates, fluorosilicates, fluoroaluminates, fluoroborates, fluorogallates, fluorindates, fluorogermanates, fluorostannates, fluorophosphates, fluoroarsenates, fluoroantimonates, fluorobismuthates, fluorosulfates, fluoroselenates, fluorotellurates, fluorocuprates, fluoroargentates, fluorozincates, fluorohafnates, fluorovanadates, fluoroniobates,

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fluorotantalates, fluoromolybdates, fluorotungstates, fluoroyttrates, fluorolanthanates, fluorocerates, fluoromanganates, fluoroferrates, fluoronickelates, fluorocobaltates, potassium fluoride, potassium hydrogen fluoride, sodium fluoride, sodium hydrogen fluoride, lithium fluoride, lithium hydrogen fluoride, ammonium fluoride, ammonium hydrogen fluoride, hydrofluoric acid, dissolved fluorine, and organic fluorides, and combinations thereof.

133. (Canceled)

134. (Canceled)

135. (Previously Presented) The conversion coating bath of claim 123 wherein the solubility control agent is selected from a cationic solubility control agent and an anionic solubility control agent.

136. (Original) The conversion coating bath of claim 135 wherein the solubility control agent is the cationic solubility control agent selected from  $H^+$ ,  $Li^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Rb^+$ ,  $Cs^+$ ,  $NH_4^+$ ,  $Mg^{+2}$ ,  $Ca^{+2}$ ,  $Sr^{+2}$ ,  $Be^{+2}$ ,  $Ba^{+2}$ ,  $Y^{+3}$ ,  $La^{+3}$ ,  $Ce^{+3}$ ,  $Ce^{+4}$ ,  $Nd^{+3}$ ,  $Pr^{+3}$ ,  $Sc^{+3}$ ,  $Sm^{+3}$ ,  $Eu^{+3}$ ,  $Eu^{+2}$ ,  $Gd^{+3}$ ,  $Tb^{+3}$ ,  $Dy^{+3}$ ,  $Ho^{+3}$ ,  $Er^{+3}$ ,  $Tm^{+3}$ ,  $Yb^{+3}$ ,  $Lu^{+3}$ ,  $Ti^{+4}$ ,  $Zr^{+4}$ ,  $Ti^{+3}$ ,  $Hf^{+4}$ ,  $Nb^{+5}$ ,  $Ta^{+5}$ ,  $Nb^{+4}$ ,  $Ta^{+4}$ ,  $V^{+5}$ ,  $V^{+4}$ ,  $V^{+3}$ ,  $Mo^{+6}$ ,  $W^{+6}$ ,  $Mo^{+5}$ ,  $W^{+5}$ ,  $Mo^{+4}$ ,  $W^{+4}$ ,  $Cr^{+3}$ ,  $Mn^{+2}$ ,  $Mn^{+3}$ ,  $Mn^{+4}$ ,  $Fe^{+2}$ ,  $Fe^{+3}$ ,  $Co^{+2}$ ,  $Co^{+3}$ ,  $Ni^{+2}$ ,  $Ni^{+3}$ ,  $Ni^{+4}$ ,  $Ru^{+2}$ ,  $Ru^{+3}$ ,  $Ru^{+4}$ ,  $Rh^{+3}$ ,  $Ir^{+3}$ ,  $Rh^{+2}$ ,  $Ir^{+2}$ ,  $Pd^{+4}$ ,  $Pt^{+4}$ ,  $Pd^{+2}$ ,  $Pt^{+2}$ ,  $Os^{+4}$ ,  $Cu^+$ ,  $Cu^{+2}$ ,  $Cu^{+3}$ ,  $Ag^+$ ,  $Ag^{+2}$ ,  $Ag^{+3}$ ,  $Au^+$ ,  $Au^{+2}$ ,  $Au^{+3}$ ,  $Zn^{+2}$ ,  $Cd^{+2}$ ,  $Hg^+$ ,  $Hg^{+2}$ ,  $Al^{+3}$ ,  $Ga^{+3}$ ,  $Ga^+$ ,  $In^{+3}$ ,  $In^+$ ,  $Tl^{+3}$ ,  $Tl^+$ ,  $Ge^{+4}$ ,  $Ge^{+2}$ ,  $Sn^{+4}$ ,  $Sn^{+2}$ ,  $Pb^{+4}$ ,  $Pb^{+2}$ ,  $Sb^{+3}$ ,  $Sb^{+5}$ ,  $As^{+3}$ ,  $As^{+5}$ ,  $Bi^{+3}$ ,  $Bi^{+5}$ , organic compounds containing at least one  $N^+$  site, organic compounds containing at least one phosphonium site, organic compounds containing at least one arsonium site, organic compounds containing at least one stibonium site, organic compounds containing at least one oxonium site, organic compounds containing at least one sulfonium site, organic compounds containing at least one selenonium site, organic compounds containing at least one iodonium site, and quaternary ammonium compounds having

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a formula  $\text{NR}_4^+$ , where R is an alkyl, aromatic, or acyclic organic constituent, and combinations thereof.

137. (Original) The conversion coating bath of claim 136 wherein the cationic solubility control agent is selected from  $\text{H}^+$ ,  $\text{Li}^+$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Rb}^+$ ,  $\text{Cs}^+$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Sr}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Y}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{La}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Ce}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Ce}^{+4}$ ,  $\text{Nd}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Pr}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Sc}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Sm}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Eu}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Eu}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Gd}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Tb}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Ho}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Er}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Tm}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Yb}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Lu}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Ti}^{+4}$ ,  $\text{Zr}^{+4}$ ,  $\text{Ti}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Hf}^{+4}$ ,  $\text{Nb}^{+5}$ ,  $\text{Ta}^{+5}$ ,  $\text{Nb}^{+4}$ ,  $\text{Ta}^{+4}$ ,  $\text{Mo}^{+6}$ ,  $\text{W}^{+6}$ ,  $\text{Mo}^{+5}$ ,  $\text{W}^{+5}$ ,  $\text{Mo}^{+4}$ ,  $\text{W}^{+4}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{+4}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Co}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Co}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Ru}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Ru}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Ru}^{+4}$ ,  $\text{Rh}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Ir}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Rh}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Ir}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Pd}^{+4}$ ,  $\text{Pt}^{+4}$ ,  $\text{Pd}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Pt}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^+$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Ag}^+$ ,  $\text{Ag}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Ag}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Au}^+$ ,  $\text{Au}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Au}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Al}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Ga}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Ga}^+$ ,  $\text{In}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{In}^+$ ,  $\text{Ge}^{+4}$ ,  $\text{Ge}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Sn}^{+4}$ ,  $\text{Sn}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Sb}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Sb}^{+5}$ ,  $\text{Bi}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Bi}^{+5}$ , organic compounds containing at least one  $\text{N}^+$  site, organic compounds containing at least one phosphonium site, organic compounds containing at least one stibonium site, organic compounds containing at least one oxonium site, organic compounds containing at least one sulfonium site, organic compounds containing at least one iodonium site, and quaternary ammonium compounds having a formula  $\text{NR}_4^+$ , where R is an alkyl, aromatic, or acyclic organic constituent, and combinations thereof.

138. (Original) The conversion coating bath of claim 135 wherein the solubility control agent is the anionic solubility control agent selected from fluorotitanates; chlorotitanates; fluorozirconates; chlorozirconates; fluoroniobates; chloroniobates; fluorotantalates; chlorotantalates; molybdates; tungstates; permanganates; fluoromanganates; chloromanganates; fluoroferrates; chloroferrates; fluorocobaltates; chlorocobaltates; fluorozincates; chlorozincates; borates; fluoroborates; fluoroaluminates; chloroaluminates; carbonates; silicates; fluorosilicates; fluorostannates; nitrates; nitrites; azides; cyanamides; phosphates; phosphites; phosphonates; phosphinites; thiophosphates; thiophosphites; thiophosphonates; thiophosphinites; fluorophosphates; fluoroantimonates; chloroantimonates; sulfates; sulfites; sulfonates; thiosulfates; dithionites; dithionates; fluorosulfates; tellurates; fluorides; chlorides; chlorates; perchlorates; bromides; bromates; iodides; iodates; periodates; heteropolyanions; ferricyanides;

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ferrocyanides; cyanocobaltates; cyanocuprates; cyanomanganates; cyanates; cyanatoferrates; cyanatocobaltates; cyanatocuprates; cyanatomanganates; thiocyanates; thiocyanatoferrates; thiocyanatocobaltates; thiocyanatocuprates; thiocyanatomanganates; cyanamides; cyanamidoferrates; cyanamidocobaltates; cyanamidocuprates; cyanamidomanganates; nitritoferrates; nitritocobaltates; azides; (thio)carboxylates; di(thio)carboxylates; tri(thio)carboxylates; tetra(thio)carboxylates; (thio)phenolates; di(thio)phenolates; tri(thio)phenolates; tetra(thio)phenolates; (thio)phosphonates; di(thio)phosphonates; tri(thio)phosphonates; (thio)phosphonamides; di(thio)phosphonamides; tri(thio)phosphonamides; amino(thio)phosphonates; diamino(thio)phosphonates; triamino(thio)phosphonates; imino(thio)phosphonates; diimino(thio)phosphonates; (thio)sulfonates; di(thio)sulfonates; tri(thio)sulfonates; (thio)sulfonamides; di(thio)sulfonamides; tri(thio)sulfonamides; amino(thio)sulfonates; diamino(thio)sulfonates; triamino(thio)sulfonates; imino(thio)sulfonates; diimino(thio)sulfonates; (thio)borates; di(thio)borates; (thio)boronates; organic silicates; stibonates; cyanides; cyanochromates; cyanonickelates; cyanatochromates; cyanatonickelates; thiocyanatochromates; thiocyanatonickelates; cyanamidochromates; cyanamidonickelates; nitritonickelates; arsonates; diarsonates; triarsonates; organic selenates; diselenates; triselenates; arsenates; arsenites; fluoroarsenates; chloroarsenates; selenates; selenites; fluorothallates; chlorothallates; iodoamalgams; chloromercurates; bromomercurates; osmates; fluoronickelates; chromates; Reinecke's salt; and vanadates; and combinations thereof.

139. (Original) The conversion coating bath of claim 138 wherein the anionic solubility control agent is selected from fluorotitanates; chlorotitanates; fluorozirconates; chlorozirconates; fluoroniobates; chloroniobates; fluorotantalates; chlorotantalates; molybdates; tungstates; permanganates; fluoromanganates; chloromanganates; fluoroferrates; chloroferrates; fluorocobaltates; chlorocobaltates; fluorozincates; chlorozincates; borates; fluoroborates; fluoroaluminates; chloroaluminates; carbonates; silicates; fluorosilicates; fluorostannates; nitrates; nitrites; azides; cyanamides; phosphates; phosphites; phosphonates; phosphinites;

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thiophosphates; thiophosphites; thiophosphonates; thiophosphinites; fluorophosphates; fluoroantimonates; chloroantimonates; sulfates; sulfites; sulfonates; thiosulfates; dithionites; dithionates; fluorosulfates; tellurates; fluorides; chlorides; chlorates; perchlorates; bromides; bromates; iodides; iodates; periodates; heteropolyanions; ferricyanides; ferrocyanides; cyanocobaltates; cyanocuprates; cyanomanganates; cyanates; cyanatoferrates; cyanatocobaltates; cyanatocuprates; cyanatomanganates; thiocyanates; thiocyanatoferrates; thiocyanatocobaltates; thiocyanatocuprates; thiocyanatomanganates; cyanamides; cyanamidoferrates; cyanamidocobaltates; cyanamidocuprates; cyanamidomanganates; nitritoferrates; nitritocobaltates; azides; (thio)carboxylates; di(thio)carboxylates; tri(thio)carboxylates; tetra(thio)carboxylates; (thio)phenolates; di(thio)phenolates; tri(thio)phenolates; tetra(thio)phenolates; (thio)phosphonates; di(thio)phosphonates; tri(thio)phosphonates; (thio)phosphonamides; di(thio)phosphonamides; tri(thio)phosphonamides; amino(thio)phosphonates; diamino(thio)phosphonates; triamino(thio)phosphonates; imino(thio)phosphonates; diimino(thio)phosphonates; (thio)sulfonates; di(thio)sulfonates; tri(thio)sulfonates; (thio)sulfonamides; di(thio)sulfonamides; tri(thio)sulfonamides; amino(thio)sulfonates; diamino(thio)sulfonates; triamino(thio)sulfonates; imino(thio)sulfonates; diimino(thio)sulfonates; (thio)borates; di(thio)borates; (thio)boronates; organic silicates; and stibonates; and combinations thereof.

140. (Original) The conversion coating bath of claim 123 wherein the conversion coating bath has a concentration of cobalt of between about  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  moles/liter cobalt and a concentration which is a maximum solubility of the cobalt source in the solvent at a temperature of the conversion coating bath.

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141. (Previously Presented) The conversion coating bath of claim 123 wherein the conversion coating bath has a concentration of oxidizer of between a minimum concentration wherein a majority of the cobalt is oxidized to a trivalent or tetravalent oxidation state and a maximum solubility of the oxidizer in the solvent at a temperature of the conversion coating bath.

142. (Previously Presented) The conversion coating bath of claim 123 wherein the conversion coating bath has a concentration of preparative agent between a minimum concentration wherein there is a fluoride-to-cobalt ratio of 0.05 and a maximum concentration which is a maximum solubility of the preparative agent in the solvent at a temperature of the conversion coating bath.

143. (Original) The conversion coating bath of claim 123 wherein the conversion coating bath has a concentration of valence stabilizer between a minimum concentration wherein there is a valence stabilizer-to-cobalt ratio of 0.010 and a maximum concentration which is a maximum solubility of the valence stabilizer in the solvent at a temperature of the conversion coating bath.

144. (Original) The conversion coating bath of claim 123 wherein the conversion coating bath has a pH of between about 0 and about 7.

145. (Original) The conversion coating bath of claim 144 wherein the conversion coating bath has a pH of between about 1 and about 6.

146. (Original) The conversion coating bath of claim 123 wherein the conversion coating bath has a temperature of between about 5°C and about 100°C.

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147. (Original) The conversion coating bath of claim 146 wherein the conversion coating bath has a temperature of between about 5°C and about 40°C.

148. (Currently Amended) A solid corrosion-inhibiting conversion coating formed on a substrate metal, the conversion coating comprising cobalt, wherein the cobalt is trivalent cobalt, or tetravalent cobalt, or combinations thereof, and a valence stabilizer combined to form a cobalt/valence stabilizer complex within the solid, corrosion-inhibiting conversion coating, wherein the cobalt/valence stabilizer complex is sparingly soluble in water at about 25°C and about 760 Torr, and wherein the valence stabilizer is selected from an organic valence stabilizer and an inorganic valence stabilizer, with the proviso that the inorganic valence stabilizer is not a vanadate or a tungstate.

Claims 149-150 (Canceled).

151. (Currently Amended) A corrosion-inhibiting conversion coating bath comprising a solvent, a precursor cobalt source, and a valence stabilizer combined to form a cobalt/valence stabilizer complex, optionally an oxidizer, optionally preparative agent, and optionally a solubility control agent, wherein the cobalt/valence stabilizer complex is sparingly soluble in water at about 25°C and about 760 Torr, and wherein the valence stabilizer is selected from an organic valence stabilizer and an inorganic valence stabilizer, with the proviso that the inorganic valence stabilizer is not a vanadate or a tungstate.

152. (Previously Presented) A corrosion-inhibiting conversion coating comprising cobalt, wherein the cobalt is trivalent cobalt, or tetravalent cobalt, or combinations thereof, and a valence stabilizer combined to form a cobalt/valence stabilizer complex wherein the cobalt/valence stabilizer complex has a central cavity containing a cobalt ion and an additional



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ion wherein the additional ion is  $B^{+3}$ ,  $Al^{+3}$ ,  $Si^{+4}$ ,  $P^{+5}$ ,  $Ti^{+4}$ ,  $V^{+5}$ ,  $V^{+4}$ ,  $Cr^{+6}$ ,  $Cr^{+3}$ ,  $Mn^{+4}$ ,  $Mn^{+3}$ ,  $Mn^{+2}$ ,  $Fe^{+3}$ ,  $Fe^{+2}$ ,  $Co^{+2}$ ,  $Ni^{+2}$ ,  $Ni^{+3}$ ,  $Ni^{+4}$ ,  $Cu^{+2}$ ,  $Cu^{+3}$ ,  $Zn^{+2}$ ,  $Ga^{+3}$ ,  $Ge^{+4}$ ,  $As^{+5}$ ,  $As^{+3}$ ,  $Zr^{+4}$ , or  $Ce^{+4}$ .

153. (Previously Presented) A corrosion-inhibiting conversion coating comprising cobalt, wherein the cobalt is trivalent cobalt, or tetravalent cobalt, or combinations thereof, and a valence stabilizer combined to form a cobalt/valence stabilizer complex wherein the valence stabilizer is an organic valence stabilizer selected from monoamines; diamines; triamines; tetraamines; pentamines; hexamines; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one to four nitrogen atoms optionally having additional nitrogen, sulfur, or oxygen binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two sulfur atoms and having additional nitrogen binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two oxygen atoms and having additional nitrogen binding sites; (two-, three-, four-, six-, eight-, or ten-)membered nitrogen, nitrogen-sulfur, or nitrogen-oxygen macrocyclics; macrocyclic oligothioketones or dithiolenes; diazenes; thio-, amido-, or imido- derivatives of hypophosphoric, phosphoric, or diphosphoric acids and salts; azo compounds, triazenes, formazans, azines, hydrazones, or Schiff Bases containing at least two azo, imine, or azine groups; azo compounds, triazenes, formazans, azines, hydrazones, or Schiff Bases with ortho- (for aryl) or alpha- or beta- (for alkyl) substitution; oximes; amidines and imido compounds; dithio ligands; amides; amino acids; N-(thio)acyl 7-aminobenzylidenimines; (thio)hydroxamates; alpha- or ortho-aminothio(di)carboxylic acids and salts; (thio)semicarbazones; (thio)acyl hydrazones; (thio)carbazones; silylaminoalcohols; thioalkyl amines and imines; hydroxyalkyl imines; (thio)aryl amines and imines; guanylureas; guanidinoureas; 2-nitrosophenols; 2-nitrophenols; N-nitrosohydroxylamines; 1,3-monothioketones; monothiomalonamides; 2-thioacylacetamides; 2-acylthioacetamides; dithiodicarboxylic diamides; trithiodicarboxylic acids and salts; monothiocarbamates; monothioethers; dithioethers; trithioethers; tetrathioethers; pentathioethers; hexathioethers; disulfides; monophosphines; diphosphines; triphosphines; tetraphosphines; pentaphosphines; hexaphosphines; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings

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containing one or two sulfur atoms optionally having additional sulfur, oxygen, or phosphorus binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one to three phosphorus atoms optionally having additional phosphorus, nitrogen, oxygen, or sulfur binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one to four nitrogen atoms and having additional phosphorus binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two oxygen atoms and having additional sulfur or phosphorus binding sites; (five-, seven-, or nine-)membered nitrogen, nitrogen-sulfur, or nitrogen-oxygen macrocyclics; (two- to ten-)membered sulfur, sulfur-oxygen, or sulfur-phosphorus macrocyclics, not including oligothioketones or dithiolenes; (two- to ten-) membered phosphorus, nitrogen-phosphorus, or oxygen-phosphorus macrocyclics; thio-, amido-, or imido- derivatives of phosphonic and diphosphonic acids and salts containing no sulfur binding sites; amido-, or imido- derivatives of hypophosphoric, phosphoric, or diphosphoric acids and salts containing no sulfur binding sites; dithioperoxydiphosphoramides; dithioperoxydiphosphoric acids and salts; monothioperoxydiphosphoramides; monothioperoxydiphosphoric acids and salts; monothiophosphoric acids; phosphoro(dithioperoxoic) acids and salts; azo compounds, triazenes, formazans, azines, or Schiff Bases; silylamines; silazanes; guanidines and diguanidines; pyridinaldimines; hydrazones; hydramides; nitriles; thioureas and thioamides; ureas and biurets; monothio ligands; diketone ligands; dithioacyl disulfides; tetrathioperoxydicarbonic diamides; (hexa-, penta-, or tetra-) thioperoxydicarbonic acids and salts; 1,2-dithiolates; rhodanines; dithiocarbimates; (thio)xanthates; S-(alkyl- or aryl-thio)thiocarboxylic acids and salts; phosphinodithioformates; (thio)borates and (thio)boronates; (thio)arsonic acids and salts; (thio)antimonic acids and salts; phosphine and arsine sulfides or oxides; beta-hydroxyketones and -aldehydes; squaric acids and salts; carbamates and carbimates; carbazates; imidosulfurous diamides; sulfurdiiimines; thiocarbonyl and mercapto oximes; 2-nitrothiophenols; 2-nitrilo(thio)phenols; acylcyanamides; imidates; 2-amidinoacetates; beta-ketoamines; 3-aminoacrylamides and 3,3-diaminoacrylamides; 3-aminoacrylic acids and salts and 3-hydroxy-3-aminoacrylic acids and salts; 2-nitroanilines; amine and diazine N-oxides; hydrazides and

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semicarbazides; (amino- or imino-)aryl phosphines; (thio- or hydroxy-)aryl phosphines; arsines; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one arsenic atom optionally having additional arsenic binding sites; (two- to six-)membered arsenic macrocyclics; selenoethers; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two selenium atoms optionally having additional selenium binding sites; (two- to six-)membered selenium macrocyclics; 1,3-diselenoketones; 1,1-diselenolates; diselenocarbamates; selenophosphoric acids and salts; selenocarbonates; cyanide, isocyanide, and cyanamide ligands; nitrosyl and nitrite ligands; azide ligands; thiolates and selenolates; (thio)cyanate ligands; diene or bicyclic or tricyclic hydrocarbon ligands; and carbonyl, halogen, or hydroxo ligands; and combinations thereof; and wherein the solubility in water of the cobalt/valence stabilizer complex is decreased by the addition of a substituent group on the organic valence stabilizer, the substituent group selected from nitro groups ( $-\text{NO}_2$ ), perfluoroalkyl groups ( $-\text{C}_x\text{F}_{2x+1}$ ), perchloroalkyl groups ( $-\text{C}_x\text{Cl}_{2x+1}$ ), nitramine groups ( $=\text{N}-\text{NO}_2$ ), thioketone groups ( $=\text{C}=\text{S}$ ), sulfenyl halide groups ( $-\text{S}-\text{X}$ ), and sulfur dihaloimide groups ( $-\text{N}=\text{SX}_2$ ), and combinations thereof.

154. (Previously Presented) A corrosion-inhibiting conversion coating comprising cobalt, wherein the cobalt is trivalent cobalt, or tetravalent cobalt, or combinations thereof, and a valence stabilizer combined to form a cobalt/valence stabilizer complex wherein the valence stabilizer is an organic valence stabilizer selected from monoamines; diamines; triamines; tetraamines; pentamines; hexamines; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one to four nitrogen atoms optionally having additional nitrogen, sulfur, or oxygen binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two sulfur atoms and having additional nitrogen binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two oxygen atoms and having additional nitrogen binding sites; (two-, three-, four-, six-, eight-, or ten-)membered nitrogen, nitrogen-sulfur, or nitrogen-oxygen macrocyclics; macrocyclic oligothioketones or dithiolenes; diazenes; thio-, amido-, or imido- derivatives of hypophosphoric, phosphoric, or diphosphoric acids and salts; azo compounds, triazenes,

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formazans, azines, hydrazones, or Schiff Bases containing at least two azo, imine, or azine groups; azo compounds, triazenes, formazans, azines, hydrazones, or Schiff Bases with ortho- (for aryl) or alpha- or beta- (for alkyl) substitution; oximes; amidines and imido compounds; dithio ligands; amides; amino acids; N-(thio)acyl 7-aminobenzylidenimines; (thio)hydroxamates; alpha- or ortho-aminothio(di)carboxylic acids and salts; (thio)semicarbazones; (thio)acyl hydrazones; (thio)carbazones; silylaminoalcohols; thioalkyl amines and imines; hydroxyalkyl imines; (thio)aryl amines and imines; guanylureas; guanidinoureas; 2-nitrosophenols; 2-nitrophenols; N-nitrosohydroxylamines; 1,3-monothioketones; monothiomalonamides; 2-thioacylacetamides; 2-acylthioacetamides; dithiodicarbonic diamides; trithiodicarboxylic acids and salts; monothiocarbamates; monothioethers; dithioethers; trithioethers; tetrathioethers; pentathioethers; hexathioethers; disulfides; monophosphines; diphosphines; triphosphines; tetraphosphines; pentaphosphines; hexaphosphines; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two sulfur atoms optionally having additional sulfur, oxygen, or phosphorus binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one to three phosphorus atoms optionally having additional phosphorus, nitrogen, oxygen, or sulfur binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one to four nitrogen atoms and having additional phosphorus binding sites; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two oxygen atoms and having additional sulfur or phosphorus binding sites; (five-, seven-, or nine-)membered nitrogen, nitrogen-sulfur, or nitrogen-oxygen macrocyclics; (two- to ten-)membered sulfur, sulfur-oxygen, or sulfur-phosphorus macrocyclics, not including oligothioketones or dithiolenes; (two- to ten-) membered phosphorus, nitrogen-phosphorus, or oxygen-phosphorus macrocyclics; thio-, amido-, or imido- derivatives of phosphonic and diphosphonic acids and salts containing no sulfur binding sites; amido-, or imido- derivatives of hypophosphoric, phosphoric, or diphosphoric acids and salts containing no sulfur binding sites; dithioperoxydiphosphoramides; dithioperoxydiphosphoric acids and salts; monothioperoxydiphosphoramides; monothioperoxydiphosphoric acids and salts; monothiophosphoric acids; phosphoro(dithioperoxoic) acids and salts; azo compounds, triazenes,

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formazans, azines, or Schiff Bases; silylamines; silazanes; guanidines and diguanidines; pyridinaldimines; hydrazones; hydramides; nitriles; thioureas and thioamides; ureas and biurets; monothio ligands; diketone ligands; dithioacyl disulfides; tetrathioperoxydicarbonic diamides; (hexa-, penta-, or tetra-) thioperoxydicarbonic acids and salts; 1,2-dithiolates; rhodanines; dithiocarbimides; (thio)xanthates; S-(alkyl- or aryl-thio)thiocarboxylic acids and salts; phosphinodithioformates; (thio)borates and (thio)boronates; (thio)arsonic acids and salts; (thio)antimonic acids and salts; phosphine and arsine sulfides or oxides; beta-hydroxyketones and -aldehydes; squaric acids and salts; carbamates and carbimides; carbazates; imidosulfurous diamides; sulfurdiimines; thiocarbonyl and mercapto oximes; 2-nitrothiophenols; 2-nitrilo(thio)phenols; acylcyanamides; imidates; 2-amidinoacetates; beta-ketoamines; 3-aminoacrylamides and 3,3-diaminoacrylamides; 3-aminoacrylic acids and salts and 3-hydroxy-3-aminoacrylic acids and salts; 2-nitroanilines; amine and diazine N-oxides; hydrazides and semicarbazides; (amino- or imino-)aryl phosphines; (thio- or hydroxy-)aryl phosphines; arsines; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one arsenic atom optionally having additional arsenic binding sites; (two- to six-)membered arsenic macrocyclics; selenoethers; five- or six-membered heterocyclic rings containing one or two selenium atoms optionally having additional selenium binding sites; (two- to six-)membered selenium macrocyclics; 1,3-diselenoketones; 1,1-diselenolates; diselenocarbamates; selenophosphoric acids and salts; selenocarbonates; cyanide, isocyanide, and cyanamide ligands; nitrosyl and nitrite ligands; azide ligands; thiolates and selenolates; (thio)cyanate ligands; diene or bicyclic or tricyclic hydrocarbon ligands; and carbonyl, halogen, or hydroxo ligands; and combinations thereof; and wherein an electrostatic barrier layer of the cobalt/valence stabilizer complex is increased by the addition of a substituent group on the organic valence stabilizer, the substituent group selected from ketones ( $=C=O$ ), thioketones ( $=C=S$ ), amides ( $-C(=O)-NR_2$ ), thioamides ( $-C(=S)-NR_2$ ), nitriles or cyano groups ( $-CN$ ), isocyanides ( $-NC$ ), nitroso groups ( $-N=O$ ), thionitroso groups ( $-N=S$ ), nitro groups ( $-NO_2$ ), azido groups ( $-N_3$ ), cyanamide or cyanonitrene groups ( $=N-CN$ ), cyanate groups ( $-O-CN$ ), isocyanate groups ( $-N=C=O$ ), thiocyanate groups ( $-S-CN$ ),

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isothiocyanate groups ( $-N=C=S$ ), nitrosamine groups ( $=N-N=O$ ), thionitrosamine groups ( $=N-N=S$ ), nitramine groups ( $=N-NO_2$ ), thionitramine groups ( $=N-NS_2$ ), carbonylnitrene groups ( $-CO-N$ ), thiocarbonylnitrene groups ( $-CS-N$ ), sulfenyl halides ( $-S-X$ ), sulfoxides ( $=S=O$ ), sulfones ( $=S[=O]_2$ ), sulfinyl groups ( $-N=S=O$ ), thiosulfinyl groups ( $-N=S=S$ ), sulfenyl thiocyanato groups ( $-S-S-CN$ ), sulfenyl cyanato groups ( $-S-O-CN$ ), sulfodiimine groups ( $=S[=NH]_2$ ), sulfur dihaloimido groups ( $-N=SX_2$ ), sulfur oxide dihaloimido groups ( $-N=S[=O]X_2$ ), aminosulfur oxide trihalide groups ( $=N-S[=O]X_3$ ), sulfonyl azide groups ( $-S[=O]_2N_3$ ), sulfonyl thiocyanate groups ( $-S[=O]_2SCN$ ), sulfonyl cyanate groups ( $-S[=O]_2OCN$ ), sulfonyl cyanide groups ( $-S[=O]_2CN$ ), halosulfonate groups ( $-S[=O]_2OX$ ), phosphonyl thiocyanate groups ( $-P[=O]OHSCN$ ), phosphonyl cyanate groups ( $-P[=O]OHOCN$ ), and phosphonyl cyanide groups ( $-P[=O]OHCN$ ), and combinations thereof.